

System Configuration Team Meeting Notes

May 19, 2005

1. Greetings and Introductions.

The May 19, 2005 System Configuration Team meeting was chaired by Bill Hevlin, who led a round of introductions and a review of the agenda. The following is a summary (not a verbatim transcript) of the topics discussed and decisions made at this meeting. Anyone with questions or comments about these notes should contact Kathy Ceballos at 503/230-5420.

2. FFDRWG Updates.

Tim Wik said that, at last week's Walla Walla District FFDRWG meeting, the group discussed the Ice Harbor RSW; the balloon tag study ended in April, and the district then commenced radio-tag and hydroacoustic testing. That work is ongoing. The conditions outlined for the test seem to be working well; the testing will continue until mid- to late July. The group also received a presentation on McNary surface bypass, said Wik; we're planning a two-day workshop at McNary during the week of July 11. At that workshop, the Corps will present some general concepts, followed by a brainstorming session.

We're working on a design for the Lower Monumental RSW, Wik continued; construction contract award date is February 2006, with installation complete by April 2007. At the FFDRWG meeting, we also discussed the Lower Granite adult trap modifications, looking at conceptual drawings showing four additional adult holding tanks and one additional anesthetic tank. We also discussed the Lower Granite juvenile bypass system, and began planning for a meeting later this summer to discuss the more detailed decisions that will have to be made regarding kelt handling, lamprey issues and orifice issues in the collection channel.

I sent out an email showing the latest plan for the Lower Granite RSW summer study, said Wik; it includes a two-treatment (RSW and non-RSW) test with 12.5 Kcfs of spill in both treatments. Wik noted that, if total Lower Snake flow drops below 25 Kcfs, it may be necessary to curtail training spill. This is considered an unlikely occurrence, however. The start date for the summer test at Lower Granite is estimated to be June 20; the test is scheduled to continue for 22 days. Randy Chun noted that the Corps is

planning to begin general modeling for the Little Goose RSW this summer.

3. SRWG Updates.

John Kranda said the SRWG one-pager summer review meeting is scheduled for June 9 at McNary.

4. FY'06 CRFM Program Priorities.

Kranda distributed the most recent version of the FY'06 CRFM measures worksheet, dated May 19. The group devoted the remainder of the meeting to a discussion of its contents. Kranda noted that this is a multi-year spreadsheet, extending out as far as FY'11; he said some of the information it contains, particularly in the out-years, is accurate, but some is based on out-of-date estimates and will need to be updated. We should have better estimates for many of these items by next month, he said.

FY'06 is going to be an interesting year, said Kranda, noting that, if the region does everything that is currently in the FY'06 program, including add-ons, the total cost would be about \$84 million. The President's budget is \$89 million. If the recent pattern of appropriations holds, he said, we'll likely see something in the low \$80-million range, which savings and slippage will reduce to the mid-\$70 million range. It doesn't appear as though the FY'06 prioritization process will be extremely difficult, said Kranda, because we don't have \$100 million+ worth of stuff to prioritize. However, if you look at the out-years, that picture changes – for example, in FY'08, if we were to fund everything that has been proposed, the total cost would be \$171 million. Obviously, in future years, we're going to need to shift some things around, Kranda said.

The group discussed line-item 5 (Little Goose RSW); Ron Boyce said Oregon would prefer to accelerate the construction of the Little Goose RSW ahead of its currently-planned date of FY'07. We're looking at the whole situation, and that's certainly something that could be considered, said Kranda, although without the spill test at Little Goose this year, that's going to make it more difficult to move that up. And what about McNary and John Day? asked Boyce – are we positioning ourselves to proceed with RSW construction at those projects? I'd like to talk to the team that is working on that issue, and report back to the SCT in the next month or two, Kranda replied.

The group discussed the fact that Congress is discussing the potential imposition of changes to federal contracting procedures that would restrict the Corps' ability to issue multi-year contracts; Kranda noted that, if adopted, these changes would force the Corps to fully fund any projects, such as RSWs, during the year in which the contracts were let. In other words, said Kranda, they would no longer be willing to commit to multi-year contracts, which allow the Corps to prorate the cost of large construction projects over several years. It's a change that could have a significant impact on the way the

SCT has traditionally done business. Kranda said he will provide further updates as more information becomes available.

The discussion moved on to system flood control study (line-item 2); Kranda noted that, as shown on the spreadsheet, out-year funding on this study is a grey area. It will be up to Congress to decide whether they want to fund the flood control study beyond FY'05, he said. In response to a question, Kranda said he does not yet know whether the Corps will be recommending that this study proceed to the feasibility level; the recon-level study is scheduled to be available for review by late May.

The group discussed McNary transport and surface bypass criteria; North shore AWS, John Day screens Lower Granite survival/efficiency studies, and the eight "add-on" line items currently listed on the spreadsheet.

It was agreed that this discussion will continue at the June SCT Meeting, to which Hevlin will bring a revised version of the SCT measures worksheet.

5. Next SCT Meeting Date.

The next meeting of the System Configuration Team was set for June 28. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.